

ZEPHANIAH

THE UNIVERSAL JUDGMENT

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- * Zephaniah means “The Lord Hides or Protects”.
- * In [Zephaniah 1:1](#), the author introduces himself as “Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah.”
- * Born during the later part of the reign of King Manasseh.
- * The great-great grandson of the godly king Hezekiah (Only prophet of royal descent)
- * Zephaniah was a contemporary of: • Jeremiah • Habakkuk

- * Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, the king of Judah from 640 to 609 BC ([Zephaniah 1:1](#)).
- * Zephaniah grew up under the reign of Josiah’s predecessors: Josiah’s grandfather, the evil king Manasseh, and Manasseh’s son, the young and evil Amon.
- * As a young man, the prophet-to-be would have been surrounded by the trappings of idolatry, child sacrifice, and unjust killings—strong influences on a young mind ([2 Kings 21:16](#); [2 Chronicles 33:1-10](#)).
- * But Zephaniah grew into a man of God, able to stand before the people and proclaim God’s message of judgment and hope to a people that had gone astray.

- * **Chapters:** 3
- * **Verses:** 56

THE DAY OF THE LORD

- * This book mentions the day of the Lord more than does any other book in the OT
- * Zephaniah saw in the day of the Lord the destruction of his country, his neighbors, and eventually the whole earth ([Zephaniah 1:2, 4; 2:10](#)).
- * Zephaniah also prophesied of the doom of heathen nations, both in the near future (the fall of Ninevah in 612; [Zeph 2:13](#)) and in the far future ([Zeph 3:18](#)).
- * Zephaniah pronounces God's coming judgment upon the nations that surround Judah.
 - To the west: Philistia
 - To the east: Moab and Ammon
 - To the south: Ethiopia
 - To the north: Assyria
- * The book closes with a glorious description of the future Millennium Kingdom.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

- * Zephaniah wrote that the day of the Lord
 1. was near (1:14),
 2. that it would be a time of wrath (1:15),
 3. that it would come as judgment on sin (1:17), and
 4. that ultimately it would result in the blessing of God's presence among His people (3:17).

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. The Author and Time of the Prophecy, 1:1

II. The Prophecies of Judgment, 1:2-3:8

A. Judgment on Judah, 1:2-18

B. An Exhortation to Repent, 2:1-3

C. Judgments on Gentile Nations, 2:4-15

1. Philistia (to the west), 2:4-7

2. Moab and Ammon (to the east), 2:8-11

3. Ethiopia (to the south), 2:12

4. Assyria (to the north), 2:13-15

D. Judgment on Jerusalem, 3:1-7

E. Judgment on the Nations, 3:8

III. The Prophecies of Blessing, 3:9-20

A. Future Blessings for Gentiles, 3:9-10

B. Future Blessings for Jews, 3:11-20